

Alleluia, alleluia! / A people in darkness
have seen a great light: / a radiant dawn
shines on those lost in death. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 1: 21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Mark.

*This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with
authority.*

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum,
and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went
to the synagogue and began to teach. And his
teaching made a deep impression on them
because, unlike the scribes, he taught them
with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man
possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted,
'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
Have you come to destroy us? I know who
you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said
sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the
unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions
and with a loud cry went out of him. The people
were so astonished that they started asking each
other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that
is new' they said 'and with authority behind
it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and
they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly
spread everywhere, through all the surrounding
Galilean countryside.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

LISTEN

Listening is a central part of being a follower
of Christ: listening to the Holy Spirit, to the
Word, and to each other. Today we are called
to listen and give undivided attention to the
Lord, to a prophet like Moses, and to Jesus in
the Gospel.

Moses reveals that "God will raise up a prophet
like myself from among yourselves, from
your own people ... to him you must listen"
(Deut 18:15). He reminds the people that this
is what they have asked for. In the letter to the
Corinthians Paul addresses the anxieties of the
community as "the present form of the world
is passing away" (1 Cor 7:31). Paul expresses
his wish that they be free from anxieties by
giving attention to the Lord.

The Gospel continues the beginning of Jesus
ministry in what I call "Jesus Central" –
Capernaum (Kefar Nahum). It is where Jesus
made his home during his Galilean ministry.
We notice it is Shabbat, the sabbath, and
Jesus is in the synagogue teaching. "They"
(those in the synagogue) are astounded by his
teaching. "They" are listening as he teaches
with authority. Juxtaposed with this is the
exorcism of an unclean spirit which brings
both amazement and the question: "what is
this? A new teaching with authority" (v. 27).
We hear that his fame spreads, but are they
truly listening, and do they recognise who he
is? Jesus proclaims the good news in word and
deed and expects a change of heart. How are
we listening today?

Dr Rosemary Canavan



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

28 JANUARY 2024

FIRST READING

Deut 18: 15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

*I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and
he will tell them all I command.*

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise
up for you a prophet like myself, from among
yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you
must listen. This is what you yourselves asked
of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of
the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you
said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look
any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and
the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is
well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself
for them from their own brothers; I will put my
words into his mouth and he shall tell them
all I command him. The man who does not
listen to my words that he speaks in my name,
shall be held answerable to me for it. But the
prophet who presumes to say in my name a
thing I have not commanded him to say, or
who speaks in the name of other gods, that
prophet shall die."'

■ The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

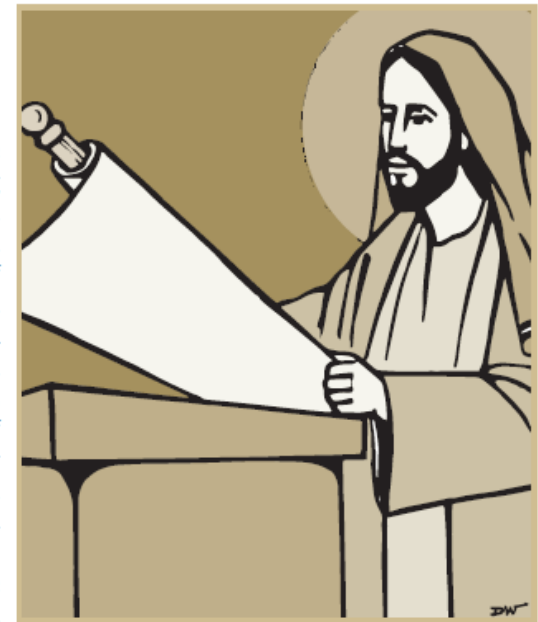
Ps 94: 1-2, 6-9. R. v. 9

R. If today you hear his voice harden not
your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail
the rock who saves us. / Let us come before
him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the
Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us kneel and bend low; / let us
kneel before the God who made us / for he is
our God and we / the people who belong to his
pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! /
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on
that day at Massah in the desert / when your
fathers put me to the test; / when they tried
me, though they saw my work.' **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 7: 32-35

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to
the Corinthians.

*The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things
of the Lord, that she might be holy.*

I would like to see you free from all worry. An
unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's
affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing
the Lord; but a married man has to bother
about the world's affairs and devote himself to
pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the
same way an unmarried woman, like a young
girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs;
all she need worry about is being holy in body
and spirit. The married woman, on the other
hand, has to worry about the world's affairs
and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I
say this only to help you, not to put a halter
round your necks, but simply to make sure that
everything is as it should be, and that you give
your undivided attention to the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

28 Jan 2024
Wk 4 Yr B

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>
Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.
Administration Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden
Sacristan Elaine Smyth
School Principals Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

Office Hrs: Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am

Presbytery 67658211
Pastoral Associate 0411703608
St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Sat: 5.30 pm Sun: 9 am Sun: 5 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES Wed: 12 noon

Thur: 9 am Mass Fri: 12 noon Mass

CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm

*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Kevin O'Toole, Marie Wren, Greg Mood, Patricia Mooney.

ANNIVERSARIES: John O'Brien (3/1), Pamela Mary Davy (nee Barry (6/1), Mary Sampson(18/1), Ivan Lillicrap (18/1), Rod Kelly (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1).

DECEASED: Grzegorz (Greg) Jurek, Cathie Mencke, Gwen Gerathy, Les Wallworth (Sydney), Margaret Marshall, Valerie Chillingworth, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

SICK: Elaine Murray, Pauline Miller, Monica Austin, Margaret Doyle, Baby Walker MacAlpine, Gerard Dunn, Shane Davidson, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Norma O'Brien, Colin MacPherson, Terry Dean, Barbara Brennan, Graeme Bussell, Pauline Wiley, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, William Bonner, Fr Bernie Flood, John Betts.



VEENA'S VERSION:

A husband and wife had been married for 60 years and had no secrets except for one: The woman kept in her closet a shoe box that she forbade her husband from ever opening. But when she was on her deathbed—and with her blessing—he opened the box and found a crocheted doll and \$95,000 in cash. “My mother told me that the secret to a happy marriage was to never argue,” she explained. “Instead, I should keep quiet and crochet a doll.” Her husband was touched. Only one doll was in the box— *that meant she'd been angry with him only once in 60 years. “But what about all this money?” he asked. “Oh,” she said, “that’s the money I made from selling the dolls.”



COMING EVENTS:

30 Jan NSW School term begins.
2 Feb Consecrated Religious Mass
14 Feb Ash Wednesday

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“Do all you can to assist and love one another.” (1890)



THANK YOU: to Fr Martin Maunsell for providing so ably for our pastoral needs in the last week. We hope you enjoyed your stay, your return trip was pleasant, and we look forward to seeing you again in our parish.

2024 ROSTERS: Should anyone be interested in reading, counting, cleaning or other volunteer duties please call or email the office and supply your contact details. We are especially short of readers for Sunday afternoon masses. Please volunteer if you are able to help in these areas. Thank you.

LENTEN GROUPS: Lent commences early on 14 February. If you would like to join a Lenten group, please contact the office by email or phone.

BECOMING A CATECHIST: You may know that Pope Francis has recently put a great deal of emphasis on being a Catechist. He says that “being a catechist means that you **are** a catechist, **not** that you **work** as a catechist”. If you would like to share your love of God with our little ones and see the joy in their faces as they learn of God’s love for them, please contact the office to discuss any ways you may be able to contribute to this important ministry. You might like to view the resources on the Diocesan website at <https://armidale.catholic.org.au/confraternity-of-christian-doctrine/> to find out more, or just call to discuss the possibilities with Anne in the office.

SICK LIST: The Sick list will be cleared at the end of January. Please advise the office if you would like anyone kept on the list to receive our prayers in their illness.

BEREAVEMENT: We have received the sad news of the passing of Greg O'Toole's father, Kevin O'Toole. Our thoughts and prayers are with Greg, Julie, Matt, Chelsea, and the O'Toole family. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.*

SOME STORIES IN THIS WEEKS CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Filipino Fiesta welcomes Holy Child of Cebu to Revesby p7; West brings Theology of the Body alive in Sydney p3; Religious freedom at stake with new 'Equality' bill p2;

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BSB 082 105

1st. Collection West Tamworth Presbytery (Diocesan collection) Acc No: 001023642

2nd Collection West Tamworth Church (St Pats Church) Acc No:001041198

PRAYER FOR OUR NEW BISHOP



God our Father, in Jesus, your Son,
You have given to your Church the perfect model of priest, prophet and king, and so You have blessed us through His sacrifice, taught us through His Word, and guided us through His rule. We ask You, Father, to guide and enlighten those who will be tasked with helping to choose the next bishop of our diocese. May the person they choose be one of deep and true prayer, a person of a compassionate heart and firm resolve, and a person of joy and peace, who desires above all to do Your will. We entrust our prayers to our Patroness, Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

WEEK 6 ROSTER: 28/1/24

Vigil: R D Gowing, G Styman
9am Sun: R S Brown, A Sartori
5.00pm Sun: R A O'Halloran C Lavell
Counting Team S Brown, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 2/2 M Vella A Jones
Altar Linen: H Reid

WEEK 1 ROSTER: 4/2/24

Vigil: R C Ledwos Sr Kathryn
9am Sun: R S Nichols G Clout
5.00pm Sun: R J Moloney C Lavell
Counting Team P Shiels, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 9/2 S Brown V Griffiths
Altar Linen: J Hutt

We acknowledge the First Nations people who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations people to this land and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

